

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the Application. Though no claims have been amended with response, Applicant respectfully provides a claim listing above.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6, 9, 10, 13-18, 21, and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,570,903 to Meister (hereinafter referred to as "Meister"). Applicant respectfully traverse.

Applicant's claims 1 and 13 recites *inter alia*:

"said first switching element and said second switching element being connected together in such a way as to implement a logical AND operation."

Meister does not teach a first switching element and second switching element that are *connected* together in such a way as to implement a logical AND operation. Instead, Meister teaches a seat occupancy sensor with a number of pressure actuatable switching elements, which are disposed in a vehicle seat in an array configuration. Each switching element taught in Meister provides an electrical output signal, which is dependent upon pressure acting on the switching element. According to Meister, all the switching elements are connected to corresponding individual inputs of an analyzer circuit (please see column 5, lines 9-22). It therefore follows that the analyzer circuit receives the individual output signals of all the switching elements and uses these individual output signals in order to classify the occupancy of the seat. Accordingly Meister does not teach switching elements as recited in Applicant's claims 1 and 13.

Applicant respectfully notes that, in an exemplary embodiment, the first switching element and second switching element of Applicant's claims that are connected together via a hardwiring so as to implement a logical AND operation. In such an embodiment, an output signal from the first and second switching element is only measurable if each one of the switching elements is triggered or activated. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that

there is no motivation found in Meister that would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the switching elements of Meister to teach Applicant's claims.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth hereinabove, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 13, as well as claims 2 -6, 9, 10, 14-18, 21, and 22 that depend respectively therefrom, are not anticipated by Meister.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 7, 11, 19, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Meister in view of United States Patent No. 7,161,460 to Federspiel ("Federspiel" hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 7, 11, 19, and 22 depend variously from claims 1 and 13. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth in the 102 remarks above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Meister does not teach every element of Applicant's claims 7, 11, 19, and 22. Federspiel does not remedy the deficiencies of Meister. Instead of teaching connected switching elements as claimed by Applicant, Federspiel teaches a first and second carrier foil and spacer. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that any combination of Meister and Federspiel does not teach every element of Applicant's claims, and thus, claims 7, 11, 19, and 22 are not obvious over any combination of Meister and Federspiel.

Claims 8, 12, 20, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Meister in view of United States Publication No. 2004/0163939 to Bieck ("Bieck" hereinafter). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 8, 12, 20, and 24 depend variously from claims 1 and 13. Thus, for at least the reasons set forth in the 102 remarks above, Applicant respectfully asserts that Meister does not teach every element of Applicant's claims 8, 12, 20, and 24. Bieck does not remedy the deficiencies of Meister. Instead of teaching connected switching elements as claimed by Applicant, Bieck teaches a carrier foil and spacer, and is silent as to interconnecting of several switching elements in such a way that allows implementation of logical AND operation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that any combination of Meister and Bieck does not

teach every element of Applicant's claims, and thus, claims 8, 12, 20, and 24 are not obvious over any combination of Meister and Bieck.

Conclusion

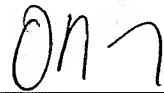
All of the rejections are herein overcome. No new matter is added by way of the present Remarks, as support is found throughout the original filed specification, claims, and drawings. Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the instantly submitted response, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests the courtesy of a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Applicant hereby petitions for any necessary extension of time required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) or 1.136(b) which may be required for entry and consideration of the present Reply.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130 maintained by Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
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